

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5592
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY ROME
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DOD WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJ: CCD: INFORMAL MEETINGS OF CCD ON CCD PROCEDURES,
MARCH 1, 1977

1. SUMMARY: IN FIRST INFORMAL MEETING OF CCD ON CCD
PROCEDURES, MEXICAN REP ASKED FOR VIEWS ON NEW SYSTEM
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OF CHAIRMANSHIP AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEGOTIATING SUB-
COMMITTEE. BURMESE REP ENDORSED MEXICAN PROPOSAL, BUT
SUGGESTED THAT WHEN A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON A SPECIFIC
TOPIC ARE BEING HELD THAT THE CHAIRMANSHIP NOT ROTATE.
ROMANIAN REP MADE GENERAL STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID
POLITICAL WILL IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND DISARMAMENT
RATHER THAN CCD INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OR PROCEDURES.

HE ALSO STRESSED NEED TO DEMOCRATIZE CCD AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR TAKING THE VIEWS OF NON-MEMBERS INTO ACCOUNT. INDIAN REP GAVE AN EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF PROCEDURAL HISTORY UNDERSCORING THE FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY THAT CCD HAS DISPLAYED OVER THE YEARS. SECOND INFORMAL MEETING ON PROCEDURES IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH ACTING NIGERIAN REP (FALASE) IN THE CHAIR, THE CCD HELD THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS ON CCD PROCEDURES ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 1. MEXICAN REP (GARCIA ROBLES) ASKED FOR VIEWS ON A NEW SYSTEM OF CHAIRMANSHIP TO REPLACE THE CURRENT CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ARRANGEMENT, AND ON THE 1976 PROPOSAL BY THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN (NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS) TO ESTABLISH NEGOTIATING SUBCOMMITTEE OR AD HOC WORKING GROUP. HE INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH COULD CONTINUE WORKING ON SECONDARY TOPICS WHEN PAUSE REQUIRED TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS ON PRIMARY TOPIC. MEXICAN REP NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO TAKE PART IN MORE THAN ONE AD HOC WORKING GROUP AND THAT SINGLE SUB-COMMITTEE CARRYING OUT PHASED NEGOTIATIONS ON TWO OR MORE TOPICS WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE PROBLEM. HE SAID THAT WHILE IT IS DESIRABLE TO IDENTIFY THE PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES AND EXAMINE VARIOUS WAYS FOR DEALING WITH THEM, THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO TAKE DECISIONS IMMEDIATELY.

4. BURMESE REP (TUN) ENDORSED MEXICAN PROPOSAL, BUT SUGGESTED THAT WHEN A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC ARE BEING HELD THAT CHAIRMANSHIP NOT ROTATE. PICKING UP ON EARLIER BRITISH PROPOSAL REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NON-MEMBERS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, HE SUGGESTED THAT CCD PLENARIES RATHER THAN AD HOC NEGOTIATING GROUPS SHOULD BE OPENED TO NON-MEMBERS.

4. ROMANIAN REP (ENE) INDICATED PREPAREDNESS TO TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE VIEWS ON PROCEDURES THAN OTHERS HAVE EXPRESSED. HE SAID THAT INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES ARE NOT THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND DISARMAMENT, BUT THAT IT IS POLITICAL WILL. UNDERSCORING THE UNIVERSAL IMPORTANCE OF DISARMAMENT, ROMANIAN REP NOTED THAT THE CCD IS THE ONLY BODY IN THE FIELD OF MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT THAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH A NEGOTIATING MANDATE BY UN. HE CALLED FOR DEMOCRATIZING THE CCD, STIMULATING ITS DYNAMIC ROLE BY ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUPS OR SUB-COMMITTEES, AND MAKING PROVISIONS FOR TAKING THE VIEWS OF NON-MEMBERS INTO ACCOUNT.

5. INDIAN REP (JAIN) GAVE AN EXTENSIVE REVEIW OF CCD PROCEDURAL HISTORY NOTING THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE

OVER THE YEARS AND USED THEM TO ILLUSTRATE THE CCD'S INHERENT FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY. HE IDENTIFIED AND ANALYZED THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

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A. ASSOCIATION OF NON-MEMBERS WITH WORK OF CCD:
SOME COUNTRIES WHO ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE WORK
OF THE CCD HAVE SENT OBSERVERS TO GENEVA TO FOLLOW THE
COMMITTEE'S WORK. CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE
INCLUDING COMMUNIQUES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EACH PLENARY
MEETING AND VERBATIMS SHORTLY THEREAFTER. IN THIS REGARD,
INDIAN REP NOTED THAT PRESENT COMMUNIQUES CONTAIN CONSIDERABLY
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MORE DETAILS AND FLAVOR THAN EARLIER COMMUNIQUES DID. ALSO NON-MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT WORKING PAPERS ON VARIOUS TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CCD. IN THIS REGARD HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF WORKING PAPERS BY NON-MEMBERS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS. IN ADDITION, NON-MEMBERS ALSO RECEIVE CCD REPORTS TO THE UN WHICH ARE NOW PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT. INDIAN REP SAID THAT CCD HAS BEEN RESPONSIVE TO NON-MEMBERS AND SHOULD CONSIDER OTHER WAYS AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE COMMITTEE. HE SAID THAT OPENING MEETINGS TO OBSERVERS WOULD POLITICIZE THE WORK OF THE CCD AND LEAD TO PLAYING TO THE GALLERIES, THEREFORE HE OPPOSED SUCH A MOVE.

B. AD HOC WORKING GROUPS OR SUB-COMMITTEES: INDIAN REP WELCOMED THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE MEXICAN REP ON THIS ISSUE AND SUGGESTED THAT THE APPROACH USED LAST YEAR DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION CONVENTION (ENMOD) COULD SERVE AS A USEFUL MODEL.

C. EXPERT MEETINGS: INDIAN REP SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO WAYS FOR DEALING WITH HIGHLY TECHNICAL ISSUES. FIRST, THE CCD COULD HOLD INFORMAL MEETINGS ON A TOPIC WITH EXPERTS PRESENT. SECOND, A GROUP OF EXPERTS COULD BE FORMED WITH NON-MEMBERS PARTICIPATING AND THEN MEET UNDER CCD AUSPICES.

D. CCD PRINCIPLES: INDIAN REP STRESSED THAT CERTAIN PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE "CHERISHED" AS FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF CCD OPERATION. AMONG THESE, HE MENTIONED DECISION-MAKING BY CONSENSUS, RIGHT OF ANY MEMBER TO SPEAK ON ANY TOPIC IN PLENARY, AND SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF NATIONS. WITH REGARD TO SOVEREIGNTY, HE NOTED THAT ALL MEMBERS MAINTAIN FULL FREEDOM OF ACTION AND ARE NOT BOUND TO BECOME PARTY TO AN INSTRUMENT NEGOTIATED BY THE CCD.

E. CO-CHAIRMANSHIP: INDIAN REP SAID THAT CO-CHAIRMANSHIP HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY INDIA DURING THE HEIGHT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE COLD WAR AS A MEANS OF OVERCOMING THE IMPASSE THAT EXISTED. HE SAID THAT CO-CHAIRMANSHIP REPRESENTED THE REALITIES OF THE WORLD AND HAD SERVED THE CCD WELL. WHILE THE TIMES, AND INDEED THE ROLE OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN, HAVE CHANGED, HE URGED THAT THE CCD RESIST MAKING CHANGES ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE.

6. COMMENT: FROM BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MOST IMPORTANT

DELS IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH NEW SUPPORT FOR EXPANDING CCD MEMBERSHIP OR OPENING UP PLENARIES, INFORMALS, OR NEGOTIATING GROUPS TO NON-MEMBERS. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THERE IS A PREFERENCE FOR AD HOC WORKING GROUP APPROACH ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY ITALY (FOR CW) RATHER THAN SUB-COMMITTEE ADVOCATED BY MEXICO. THE QUESTION IS WHEN SUCH WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. SOVIET DEL SHARES OUR VIEW THAT AD HOC WORKING GROUP CW SHOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED UNTIL ISSUE IS RIPE FOR NEGOTIATION (I.E. UNTIL US-SOVIET JOINT INITIATIVE HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO CCD). ON QUESTION OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A MAJOR EFFORT TO MAKE CHANGES DURING SPRING SESSION. THERE IS A DESIRE, HOWEVER, TO IDENTIFY VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PRIOR TO THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. THE PERVERSIVE EXPECTATION AT THE CCD SERIOUSNEGOTIATIONS ON CTB OR CW, OR BOTH, WILL BE INITIATED DURING THE SUMMER SESSION HAS SERVED TO RESTRAIN THOSE ADVOCATING CO-CHAIRMANSHIPCIDE. HOWEVER, SHOULD SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS NOT APPEAR IMMINENT DURING THE SUMMER SESSION, THEN THIS ISSUE COULD BE REVIVED WITH A VENGEANCE. END COMMENT.

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